

Brian Joffe wins the MANEX

Turning an R8 million start-up into a R95 billion a year company is proof that Brian Joffe has been extremely successful at the helm of the Bidvest Group.

He was announced the winner of the 2008 Wits Business School Management Excellence Award (MANEX) at a ceremony on October 16.

Previous MANEX winners include Elisabeth Bradley, Tokyo Sexwale, Pravin Gordhan, Raymond Ackerman, Donald Gordon, Anton Rupert, Bobby Godsell and Nicky Oppenheimer.

Now in its 26th consecutive year, MANEX honours top business leaders in the country recognising consistency in management excellence and an individual's general contribution to society.



Managing Excellence... Executive Chairman of the Bidvest Group Brian Joffe.

Upcoming events

26 November

WBS Barloworld Public Dialogue

Dr Mamphela Ramphele will talk about her new book 'Laying Ghosts to Rest'.

27 November

Nku Nyembezi-Heita, CEO AcerlorMittal: 'Management in Turbulent Times - How AcerlorMittal is dealing with the economic crisis'

Contact Rutendo Nxumalo,
011 717 3615 or
Rutendo.Nxumalo@wits.ac.za
for more information.

All the 2008 winners

**Leonard Fine Prize
Best MBA Full Time
Overall Student:** Beyers Serfontein

**Old Mutual Gold Medal
Best MBA Part Time
Overall Student:** Louise Hendey

**Lidonga Group Holding
International Business
Trip Scholarship:** Victor Sibiya
**International Exchange
Scholarship:** Phillip Thornton, Sugendree Reddy & Kate Skinstad

**Investec Prize Best
Research Report in
the field of Investment:** Beyers Serfontein

**Ernst & Young Prize
Best MBA Student in
Mergers & Acquisitions**

Elective: Paul Tredoux

**Spescom Prize
Best MBA Student in
Negotiation Skills Elec-
tive:** Kimura Takeshi

**Standard Bank Prize
Best MBA Student in
Entrepreneurship
Elective:** Richard Angus

**L'Oreal Prize
Best Overall PDM Full-
time Student:** Heather Gear

**McKinsey & Company
Prize Best Overall PDM
Part Time Student:** Nicholas Roberts

**Afrox Prize Best PDM
Student in Organisa-
tional Theory:** Heather Gear

**Greif South Africa Prize
Best PDM Student in
Industrial Relations:** Lungile Moyo

**Top Lecturers (Core
Courses):** Professor Geoff Bick & Mike Pycraft
**Runner Up (Core
Courses):** Conrad Viedge

**Top Lecturer (Elective
Courses):** Peter Christie
**Runner Up (Elective
Courses):** Dr Christoph Maier

**Top Lecturer (Execu-
tive
Education):** Professor Russell Abratt
**Runner Up (Executive
Education):** Professor Ron Amey

Top lecturer
(core courses):
Professor
Geoff Bick



Top lecturer
(core
courses):
Mike Pycraft



Runner-up
Top lecturer
(core courses):
Conrad Viedge

Here's to the next 40 years



Workshopping... (clockwise from top left) Prof Rasoava Rijamampianina, Prof Anton Roodt, Prof Fred Ahwireng-Obeng, Mike Pycraft, Prof John Luiz and Conrad Viedge

The third annual WBS Alumni event, organised by the WBS Alumni Association, was made even more special by it being the 40th anniversary year of the Wits Business School.

"Every year we graduate close to 2,000 students. As a result, we have a large alumni body spread across South Africa, other African countries and parts of the world. We need to tap into this resource by building a sustainable relationship," Prof Ncube said. This eagerly-diarised and much-anticipated event did just that by bringing together business leaders, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs.

Positive feedback from participants at previous alumni events, meant the winning formula for the day included a selection of workshops by leading WBS lecturers.

Professor Fred Ahwireng-Obeng presented 'The Entrepreneurship Deficit in South Africa's Economic Development' and looked at issues of skills scarcity and suggested ways South Africans could discover opportunities by creating a demand, for example, medical tourism in South Africa.

Professor John Luiz facilitated a workshop titled 'Why some Nations are Rich and Others Poor'. He put some focus on how the definition of wealth has changed over the years, looking at mercantilism (the accumulation of minerals), the industrial revolution and the technological twentieth century which leads with human capital and creativity.

Other workshops included; Strategic Leadership - Key to Competitive Success by Professor Anton Roodt, Taking Charge as a Business Leader by Conrad Viedge, Strategic Issues in Talent Management by Professor Rasoava Rijamampianina and Operations Management Update by Mike Pycraft.

The keynote speech for the day was delivered by ex AngloGold Ashanti CEO and Honourary WBS Professor Bobby Godsell. WBS MBA Alumni gathered thereafter at the Sandton Sun for a gala dinner, where former WBS director Andy Andrews gave a presentation.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary, WBS full time PDM students organised a successful Golf Day on October 2 at the Parkview Golf Club where they also raised bursary funds for underprivileged applicants,

The Alumni Association, responsible for a magnificent commemoration of the business schools' four decades of excellence, is chaired by Steven Bunce. The Alumni Association board includes Mario Compagnoni, Dominic Illet, Dr Maurice Goodman, Professor Ray Nkado, Connie Nkosi and Helen Strong. Debbie Sachs acts as the Senior Programme manager for Alumni Affairs.

Scenes from the Alumni dinner

Good Memories... WBS MBA alumni celebrated the business school's 40 years at a gala dinner held at the Sandton Sun.



At the helm... (from left) Wits University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Professor Yunus Ballim, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor, Loyiso Nongxa and WBS Director, Professor Mthuli Ncube.

Meeting the challenges



"South Africa belongs to all"... Bobby Godsell

An excerpt from Bobby Godsell's address at the WBS Alumni Day on October 4, "The future is a different country: A toolkit for uncertain times"

"...Then there are the huge problems of effective management and leadership of organizations both in government and in the private sector, with both having areas of great excellence and disgraceful incompetence..."

...Let us ask ourselves honestly: "Whose country is this?"

Our newly elected President Motlanthe invoked the Freedom Charter to answer this, saying that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white.

I would suggest a different conception. It is one that applies not only to South Africa, but also to this new, strange and in many ways scary world we now inhabit.

I would argue that the future belongs to those who have had the courage and wisdom to understand the changes and challenges that surround them, and who have the courage and energy to act to meet those challenges. I very much hope that those who have been part of the Wits Business School over the last 40 years will be found in this number."

Four decades of excellence



Looking back... Former WBS Director Andy Andrews was the key-note speaker at the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

One hundred and ninety of WBS's MBA alumni gathered at the Sandton Sun for a celebration worthy of the 40 years the business school has put behind it so far.

Keynote speaker and former WBS Director Andy Andrews encouraged lecturers to be bold, express their views publicly and be forward thinkers.

He paid respects to the previous directors who steered WBS over the years and related anecdotes from his time at the business school.

"The whole theme of the evening was a light-hearted reminiscence of WBS over its four decades," said Steven Bunce, chairperson of the WBS Alumni Association. "We had a video playing with music of the decades, reminders of the movies and cars of the time. It also included the class lists and cheers were heard when particular classes came up. The class photos were also shown throughout the evening."

There was an excellent response from the alumni, Bunce said, and many attended to show their support of their alma mater, including Frank Horwitz, Roy Snaddon from the first MBA class of 1968 and Connie Nkosi, the first black woman to receive an MBA from WBS.

The crowd was entertained by the jazzy sounds of the Dimpie Tshabalala Trio, and treated to a commemorative photograph of themselves in front of Outeniqua House.

"We announced the launch of the WBS book 'Moments in Time' that looks at the business school's history over the last 40 years. We will also be putting together a commemorative photo album for the school which we are sure will be a tremendous keepsake for our alumni, especially those who are now overseas," Bunce said.



The Alumni Association Board... (From left to right) Mario Compagnoni, Professor Ray Nkado, Helen Strong, Steven Bunce, Debbie Sachs and Dominic Illet. (not pictured: Dr Maurice Goodman and Connie Nkosi)

PDM Golf Day well on par



The Steering Committee... (From left to right) Victoria Curtis, Michael Varney (Steering Committee Chairman), Rutendo Nxumalo, Claire Shepherd, Lara Opperman, Michelle Cameron, Claudia van den Berg, Sel Mosela, Marc Emert and Jonathan Jacobsen.

Three bursaries will be awarded to deserving students who apply for the 2009 PDM course at WBS.

This is due to the efforts of a group of PDM full-time students who set up a steering committee to organise a corporate golf day on October 2, that also celebrated WBS' 40th anniversary.

"Due to the hard work and dedication of the Steering Committee, the unbelievable support that we received from our corporate sponsors as well as the support of the WBS Director Professor Mthuli Ncube, we were able to raise R190 000. The majority of this money has been set aside to give not only one but three bursaries to students to complete the PDM course in 2009," said Michael Varney, Steering Committee Chairman. The bursaries will be called the PDM Class of 2008 Academic Gift and will be awarded to students who are academically deserving and under financial pressure," said Michael Varney of the steering committee.

Twenty-four corporate teams participated including Wag The Dog Publishers (pictured left) and Team Caledonia Mining (pictured bottom left).

The golf day will be an annual WBS event.



News Briefs

- Dr Geoff Bick has been promoted to Associate Professor.
- WBS is an official co-host of the Global Entrepreneurship Week 2008 which officially launched on November 17. Free Entrepreneurship Workshops will be held during the Entrepreneurship Week. Contact zahn.gowar@wits.ac.za for details.
- WBS was proud to host Dr Jochen Runde from the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge when he gave a fascinating talk on The Identity of Technological Objects and User Innovations. Runde spoke on the coming together of functions and forms as what gives items that surround us their technological identity. He presented a case study on the 'Transmuting Turntable' and looked at how the turntable evolved from a simple play-back device to a musical instrument in its own right. "User-driven innovations in function matter, and user-innovation is beneficial to incumbent manufacturers," he said.

www.MBAconnect.net is a vibrant community website for MBA alumni and current students from all business schools around South Africa and worldwide. We facilitate networking, job opportunities, knowledge-sharing, social interactions, events and a host of other fantastic features for the MBA community. In essence, the [MBAconnect.net](http://www.MBAconnect.net) site enables MBAs from all business schools to connect to each other, and it broadens the



MBA network and the opportunities it can provide. Since the site's launch there has been an incredible response and the community is growing rapidly. In fact quite a few WBS MBAs worldwide have already joined.

To be part of this dynamic, fast-growing community, you can join up at www.mbaconnect.net. If you would like to find out more, contact Colette at colette@mbaconnect.net.

Compiled by the WBS Marketing and Communications department in conjunction with [frayintermedia](http://frayintermedia.com).
Send your news items to Rutendo on 011 717 3615 or email rutendo.nxumalo@wits.ac.za